

APPENDIX A

PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE BROADEST CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AREA

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Activities are forest management and other actions known to have occurred, are presently occurring, or are likely to occur within the analysis areas for the resources being analyzed for the Bitterroot National Forest Travel Management Planning Project, and may contribute cumulative effects when combined with the proposed activities.

The environmental analysis required under NEPA is forward-looking in that it focuses on the potential impacts of the Proposed Action¹. However, past and present activities have contributed or could be contributing to the existing condition of resources, as described in the Affected Environment sections of the resource analyses in Chapter 3. Additionally, reasonably foreseeable activities may produce environmental effects to resources relevant to the proposal. Therefore, past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities have been considered in the cumulative effects analysis for each resource relative to potential future effects of the proposed activities. Because the proposal's direct and indirect effects vary in time and space, each resource has a defined and specific cumulative effects analysis area and timeframe.

The activities listed below are addressed in the environmental effects discussions in Chapter 3, as appropriate for each resource, identifying which may contribute cumulatively to the effects of the proposed activities, and what those effects might be. They are analyzed and discussed individually to the extent they may provide unique or especially pertinent ongoing and future cumulative effects relevant to the pending decision or are somehow particularly useful in illuminating or predicting the direct and indirect effects of the proposed activities, whether or not the monitored effects are actually cumulative to the proposed activities¹.

Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Activities are management activities planned by the Bitterroot National Forest, other government agencies, or private landowners within or near the analysis areas for the resources analyzed in Chapter 3 of this document. These activities could occur regardless of which alternative is selected for implementation with the Travel Management Planning Project. The Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Activities listed below were compiled using the Forest Service's Planning, Appeals and Litigation System (PALS).

Present Activities are ongoing, and are treated similarly to past actions, in that their effects contribute to the Existing Condition.

Reasonably Foreseeable Activities are formal proposals or decisions not yet implemented at the time of this analysis, including those that would recur on an annual basis.

The listing is intended to demonstrate that relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities were identified and considered in the analysis of cumulative effects. However, these listings do not stand alone, and are supported with cumulative effects analysis by each resource area in the effects discussion of Chapter 3. Projects listed in the Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Activities tables were contained in the January 2015 Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the Bitterroot National Forest.

¹ Council on Environmental Quality, Guidance on the Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis, June 24, 2005 Memorandum.

PAST ACTIVITIES

Past activities are those whose effects are still present on the landscape or are still having an effect. A catalog of all past activities, including timber harvest and associated activities on National Forest System, state, and private lands; prescribed burning; livestock grazing; recreational use; and road construction, maintenance, decommissioning, and storage, which occurred in the Travel Management Planning project area, which encompasses the Bitterroot National Forest outside of Designated Wilderness, was not prepared. As stated in a June 24, 2005 memorandum concerning cumulative effects prepared by the Council on Environmental Quality, “Agencies are not required to list or analyze the effects of individual past actions unless such information is necessary to describe the cumulative effect of all past actions combined ... Generally, agencies can conduct an adequate cumulative effects analysis by focusing on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions” {Project File folder ‘cumulative effects,’ Project File document CUMULATIVE-001.pdf}.

In other words, the effects of past actions have created the existing condition/affected environment section for the resources analyzed in Chapter 3; consequently, specific past actions do not need to be identified for the cumulative impacts analysis.

Recent Past Projects and Actions	Description
Trapper Bunkhouse	Research, road decommissioning, road improvements/construction, watershed improvements, fuel treatments (non-activity fuels), noxious weed treatments, timber sales (salvage), timber sales (green), and dispersed recreation management
Larry Bass	The project implemented vegetation management activities, including commercial and non-commercial treatments (thinning), on approximately 920 acres within the Bass Creek Recreation Area to address mountain pine beetle concerns. The treatments aimed to improve overall forest health in the area.
Lower West Fork	Vegetation management activities included commercial thinning and underburning of approximately 2041 acres, non-commercial thinning of approximately 296 acres, and prescribed burning (combination of hand piling, pile burning, and under-burning) of approximately 1532 acres. About 18 miles of road have been stored and 26 miles decommissioned. Thirty-three culverts were removed from road-stream crossings. Storing or decommissioning 11.3 miles of road are mandatory to off-set potential short-term timber sale effects.
Lake Como Reconstruction	Reconstruction of Upper Como Campground and Como-Rock campsite and lake side erosion control along picnic area, beach, and Woods Cabin.
Martin Creek Watershed Restoration Project	Decompaction, recontouring, and revegetation of unneeded roads: 54 miles of roads were placed in long-term storage; 62 miles of roads were decommissioned. Implementation will help reduce sediment sources in watersheds with sediment TMDLs, and improve soil productivity and vegetative conditions.
Middle East Fork Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Vegetation and fuels treatments to reduce wildland fire threat to the East Fork community, help restore fire-adapted ecosystems, and restore stands affected by Douglas-fir beetle
Haacke Claremont Fuel Reduction	Commercial and non-commercial thinning and prescribed fire
Hotsprings Fuels	Fuel reduction around private lands near Lost Trail Hot Springs
Cinnamon Bear Pine Restoration	Restoration and/or maintenance of ponderosa pine by slashing, piling, under burning in three units

Recent Past Projects and Actions	Description
	(105 ac). Reduce the amount of encroaching Douglas-fir
School Point Ecoburn and Hazard Fuel Reduction	Reduced fuels within the wildland urban interface using prescribed burning and manual fuels treatment adjacent to private land and administrative sites
Echo Gulch Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Defensible fuels protection zone for the Springer-Bonanza community
Block Wood Ecoburn	Pre-commercial thinning implemented on approximately 200 acres within terraced plantations. Approximately 70 acres treated with prescribed fire and approximately 130 acres will be thinned, with slash lopped and scattered.
Swift Creek Plantation Thinning	Mechanical and commercial thinning of terraced plantation. Treatments were designed to reduce stocking densities, prevent further mortality from bark beetles, and improve growth.
Sula Peak/East Fork Grazing Allotments	<p>Reissued a Term Grazing Permit that combined the Sula Peak and East Fork Allotments. The combined allotments will be titled the Sula Peak – East Fork Allotment.</p> <p>The number of permitted livestock on the allotment would range between 400 Cow / Calf Months to 100 Cow/Calf Months, depending on the compliance record of the permittee. If compliance with standards and guidelines is consistently high and the resources maintain at or continue to move towards desired conditions, then the allowable stocking rate can remain stable. If compliance with standards and guidelines is low, then the stocking rate will require a downward adjustment and a possible increase in the level of range management effort by the permittee. This would be accomplished with annual operating instructions.</p>
Coffee Face Fuel Reduction	Reduced ground fuels, reduced the encroachment of Douglas-fir, maintained an open understory structure characteristic to ponderosa pine habitat types, and improved wildlife winter range by reducing conifer competition on approximately 3,500 acres
Chaffin Fuels Reduction Project	Fuel reduction on approximately 250 acres
Improving Forest Resilience to Mountain Pine Beetle Infestations in Campgrounds	Beetle infested trees were removed in campgrounds on the Bitterroot National Forest. In addition live green trees were removed to improve resistance of remaining trees to beetle attacks. Purpose was visitor safety and site preservation.
Painted Rocks Fuels Reduction	Fuel reduction that will be accomplished by a combination of understory thinning to remove ladder f fuels, and prescribed understory burning to reduce the density, quantity, and arrangement of surface and ladder fuels.
Circle KBL Outfitter Temporary Camp Locations	Use of two camp locations on the Stevensville Ranger District for hunting seasons 2011-2012
Indian Summer Outfitter Temporary Camp Location	Use of camp location in NE1/2SW1/4 Section 5, T3N, R17W for hunting seasons 2011-2012.
Fred Burr High Lake Dam Access for Repair Project	The purpose of this proposal was to authorize adequate access to Fred Burr High Lake, Inc. in order to repair the existing unsafe ramp to the headgate and the log boom for the Fred Burr High Lake dam, located in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
Lost Trail Ski Area Sanitation Salvage Project	Sanitation salvage of about 1.25 MMBF of commercial dead and dying trees at the Lost Trail ski area.
Lost Trail Chair 4 Thinning Project	Thinning of small diameter trees at the Lost Trail Ski Area to reduce future mountain pine beetle and wildfire impacts.

Recent Past Projects and Actions	Description
Kootenai Creek Trail #53 Relocation	Reconstruction of existing tread and estimated 300' trail relocation to move the trail out of the high water mark onto existing bench.
Canyon Creek Trail #525	Relocated steep climb within first mile of trail with estimated 500 linear feet new tread construction. Obliterated existing steep climb with debris and check dams.
Porcupine Creek Trail #205 Reconstruction	Reconstruction of Trail #205 1/4 mile past the Two Good Cabin on Sula Ranger District.
Piquett Creek Trail #675 Reconstruction	Reconstruction of the trail to include a reconstruction of one ford, moving a second ford, and relocating a section of trail in between the two fords.
Cameron Creek Streambank Restoration	Rebuild seven collapsed streambanks along Cameron Creek using bio-engineering methods

PRESENT ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Projects and Actions	Description
Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Invasive Plants EIS	Project will treat invasive plants and noxious weeds with herbicides and biocontrols within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area.
Como Forest Health Protection (FHP) Project	The proposed project would address immediate and long-term vegetation concerns resulting from the mountain pine beetle, reduce fire hazard, increase age and species diversity in forested stand, and protect the visual integrity of the recreation area. 1.7 miles of new road would be constructed and placed in long-term storage following timber harvest activities. Approximately 3.1 miles of undetermined roads would be placed in long-term storage, and about 3.5 miles of undetermined roads would be decommissioned.
Darby Lumber Lands Watershed Improvement and Travel Management	Road system management on acquired and National Forest System lands, including decommissioning of approximately 66 miles of roads, placement in long-term storage of approximately 55 miles of roads, closing 10 miles of roads open yearlong and 8 miles of roads open seasonally to motorized use, and opening about 13 miles of currently closed roads to seasonal motorized use, mainly for vehicles less than 50" in width. The decision also included construction of approximately 5 miles of trails to form motorized loop routes, and construction of approximately 0.4 miles of road to provide administrative and year-long recreational access around a private inholding. The net change in motorized access from this project was a decrease of approximately 5 miles.
Three Saddle Vegetation Management Project	Vegetation treatments in the Threemile and Ambrose Creek watersheds to reduce tree densities in young, regenerated and mature timber stands to improve forest health while providing forest products. Almost 9.5 miles of road would be decommissioned and another 1.1 miles would be placed into long-term storage following project completion.
Bitterroot Forest-wide Timber Stand Improvement Project	Project will precommercially thin 7,500 acres of mostly 15-25 year-old plantations to promote forest health, including the slashing of less desirable species, and the occasional hand piling of the cut material and burning of those piles.
Sula District Fish Culverts	Replace 16 fish barrier culverts on the Sula Ranger District with fish-passable structures. The new

Ongoing Projects and Actions	Description
	structures could be bridges, open-bottomed arches, or larger culverts, depending on need and costs.
West Fork District Fish Culvert Replacements	Replace or remove 32 fish barrier culverts on the Montana portion of the West Fork Ranger District.
Aquatic Organism Passage at Stevensville and Darby R.D. Culverts	Allow aquatic organisms (fish, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates) year-round passage where roads cross streams.
Carbaryl/Verbenone Project	The Bitterroot National Forest proposes to protect susceptible lodgepole and ponderosa pine trees against the mountain pine beetle in several campgrounds and administrative sites by applying a combination of carbaryl and verbenone.
Teepee Face Ecoburn	Reduce natural fuel accumulations, reintroduce fire to the landscape and improve big game forage through the use of prescribed fire and small tree thinning.
West Tolan Ecoburn	Reduce natural fuel accumulations, reintroduce fire to the landscape and improve big game habitat through the use of prescribed fire and small tree thinning.
Soda Springs Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project	Small tree thinning and prescribed fire to improve winter range.
Upper Nez Perce Landscape Burn	Prescribed burning on portions of a 15,755 acre area to reduce the amount and arrangement of fuels, improve winter range habitat that will affect behavior of future wildland fires at a landscape scale, and increase the quantity and quality of forage.
Wildfire suppression	Fire suppression activities will occur as needed. Control of wildfires will follow Forest Plan goals, objectives, forest-wide standards, and Management Area standards. Activities may include construction of firelines, safety zones, and helispots by hand and mechanical means.
Prescribed Burning	The use of prescribed fire following timber harvest activities and fuels reduction projects will occur as needed. Prescribed burning activities will follow Forest Plan goals, objectives, forest-wide standards, and Management Area standards.
Invasive Plants Management	Efforts to control infestations of noxious weeds and reduce new infestations are ongoing, and will continue into the foreseeable future. Control actions may include aerial and ground-based spraying, biological control, and mechanical (mowing/hand pulling). All activities comply with the Noxious Weed Treatment Project EIS and ROD
Road and Trail Management	<p>Routine road maintenance will occur as needed. Maintenance includes road blading, gate repair/replacement, cleaning ditches and culverts, brushing, and debris removal.</p> <p>Road improvements will occur as needed. Improvements include the placement of crushed aggregate and the installation of drainage features such as culverts and drain dips. Existing culverts may be replaced; additional culverts will be installed as needed. Other types of improvements include slope stabilization, aquatic organism passage structures, bridges, gabion retaining walls, and under drain systems.</p> <p>Administrative use of roads is ongoing. Use is associated with road maintenance, permit administration, fire suppression, noxious weed control, data collection, monitoring, and general administration of public lands. Road use will follow Forest use policies.</p>
Cattle Grazing	There are 16 active grazing allotments totaling approximately 150,355 acres. About 1,385 cow/calf pairs are authorized to graze for varying lengths of time between May 15 and October 31, for a total

Ongoing Projects and Actions	Description
	of 5,048 animal unit months. Additionally, there are 4 inactive or “reserve” allotments totaling approximately 37,582 acres which are available in the event that an active allotment needs to be rested for resource concerns. There are no allotted numbers or assigned dates for these allotments.
Personal use firewood cutting	Firewood gathering occurs along all roads that are open year round or seasonally. Firewood gathering is prohibited within active timber sale units or other areas signed or shown on the firewood gathering area map as being closed to firewood gathering.
Personal use Christmas tree harvesting	Cutting Christmas trees occurs along all roads that are open year round or seasonally. Christmas tree cutting is prohibited within active timber sale units, tree plantations, previously thinned areas, and restricted areas such as developed recreation sites.
Special Uses/Permits	There are numerous special uses and permits that are being issued. Examples include outfitting and guiding permits, rights of way, easements, and dam maintenance.
Public Use	Recreational use of the Project Area includes hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, driving for pleasure, dispersed camping, berry picking, other forest product gathering (mushrooms, cones, and boughs), snowmobiling, bicycling, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.
State Land	<p>Analyses were conducted assuming that the State of Montana is following current laws and regulations pertaining to activities, including timber harvest and housing development, conducted on their properties. Grazing permits are often issued for State School Trust Lands, but only a few allotments are located within the boundary of the Bitterroot National Forest due to the lack of suitable forage.</p> <p><u>Slocum Creek Timber Sale</u></p> <p>The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is harvesting timber on 357 acres of Montana Common Schools Trust lands and 57 acres of Public Building Trust lands. The project area is located approximately 9 miles east of Stevensville, Montana, and involves an area within Sections 36 and 24, in T9N, R19W and Section 30 in T9N, R18W. The total gross sale area is approximately 1,320 acres. Approximately 2.1 million board feet will be harvested using various even and uneven-aged silvicultural treatments. Harvest is scheduled to be completed during the fall of 2014.</p>
Private Land	Analyses were conducted assuming that private land owners are following current laws and regulations pertaining to activities, including timber harvest and housing development, conducted on their properties.

REASONABLY FORESEEABLE ACTIVITIES

Foreseeable Future Projects	Description
Westside	The proposed project would reduce fuel loads and fire hazard in the WUI, improve forest resilience to natural disturbances, manage timber to provide forest products, jobs, and income, and restore and enhance wildlife and native plant habitat and diversity. There may be opportunities for road management, including decommissioning and long-term storage.
Hog Trough Riparian Restoration Project	Remove approximately 0.1 mile of road, which is 2/3 of the existing roadbed, where it closely parallels Hog Trough Creek. The objective is to improve steamside vegetation and associated fish and wildlife habitat.
Meadow Vapor	Road management and treatment of accumulated fuels in the East Fork of the Bitterroot watershed in order to modify the potential for extreme fire behavior, especially along the National Forest boundary. Approximately 23 miles of roads would be decommissioned, and about 8 miles of roads would be placed in long-term storage.
Daly Gold	Vegetation treatment project involving commercial harvest, precommercial thinning and prescribed fire on the Stevensville Ranger District
Cameron Blue Ecoburn	Prescribed burning to reduce natural fuels while maintaining the historic fire return interval. Small tree thinning will occur within plantations and around residual trees.
Wildfire suppression	Fire suppression activities will occur as needed. Control of wildfires will follow Forest Plan goals, objectives, forest-wide standards, and Management Area standards. Activities may include construction of firelines, safety zones, and helispots by hand and mechanical means.
Prescribed Burning	The use of prescribed fire following timber harvest activities and fuels reduction projects will occur as needed. Prescribed burning activities will follow Forest Plan goals, objectives, forest-wide standards, and Management Area standards.
Invasive Plants Management control	Efforts to control infestations of noxious weeds and reduce new infestations are ongoing, and will continue into the foreseeable future. Control actions may include aerial and ground-based spraying, biological control, and mechanical (mowing/hand pulling). All activities comply with the Noxious Weed Treatment Project EIS and ROD.
Road and Trail Management	<p>Routine road maintenance will occur as needed. Maintenance includes road blading, gate repair/replacement, cleaning ditches and culverts, brushing, and debris removal.</p> <p>Road improvements will occur as needed. Improvements include the placement of crushed aggregate and the installation of drainage features such as culverts and drain dips. Existing culverts may be replaced; additional culverts will be installed as needed. Other types of improvements include slope stabilization, aquatic organism passage structures, bridges, gabion retaining walls, and under drain systems.</p>

Foreseeable Future Projects	Description
	Administrative use of roads will continue. Use is associated with road maintenance, permit administration, fire suppression, noxious weed control, data collection, monitoring, and general administration of public lands. Road use will follow Forest use policies.
Cattle Grazing	There are 16 active grazing allotments totaling approximately 150,355 acres. About 1,385 cow/calf pairs are authorized to graze for varying lengths of time between May 15 and October 31 for a total of 5,048 animal unit months. Additionally, there are 4 inactive or “reserve” allotments totaling approximately 37,582 acres which are available in the event that an active allotment needs to be rested for resource concerns. There are no allotted numbers or assigned dates for these allotments.
Personal use firewood cutting	Firewood gathering occurs along all roads that are open year round or seasonally. Firewood gathering is prohibited within active timber sale units or other areas signed or shown on the firewood gathering area map as being closed to firewood gathering.
Personal use Christmas tree harvesting	Cutting Christmas trees occurs along all roads that are open year round or seasonally. Christmas tree cutting is prohibited within active timber sale units, tree plantations, previously thinned areas, and restricted areas such as developed recreation sites.
Special Uses/Permits	There are numerous special uses and permits that will continue to be analyzed and issued as new applications are received and existing permits expire. Examples include outfitting and guiding permits, rights of way, easements, and dam maintenance.
Public Use	Recreational use of the Project Area includes hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, driving for pleasure, berry picking, other forest product gathering (mushrooms, cones, and boughs), snowmobiling, bicycling, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.
State Land	<p>Analyses were conducted assuming that the State of Montana is following current laws and regulations pertaining to activities, including timber harvest and housing development, conducted on their properties. Grazing permits are often issued for State School Trust Lands, but only a few allotments are located within the boundary of the Bitterroot National Forest due to the lack of suitable forage.</p> <p><u>County Line Timber Sale</u> The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation proposes to harvest timber on state lands to generate revenue for the Montana Common Schools Trust. The project area is located approximately 7 miles northeast of Florence, Montana, and involves an area within, in T11N, R19W, Section 36. The total gross sale area is approximately 480 acres. If a harvest alternative is selected, approximately .5 million board feet would be harvested from approximately 186 acres with various even and uneven-aged silvicultural treatments.</p> <p><u>Middle Burnt Fork</u> The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation proposes to harvest timber on state lands. The project area is located within T8N, R19W, Section 36, approximately 11 miles east of Victor,</p>

Foreseeable Future Projects	Description
	Montana. The project will involve precommercial thinning, and up to commercial harvest of up to 200MBF of sawlogs. Harvest is tentatively scheduled for 2015
Private Land	Analyses were conducted assuming that private land owners are following current laws and regulations pertaining to activities, including timber harvest and housing development, conducted on their properties.